

5 We claim:

1. A transport device for lying transport of elongate meat products which are subjected to a processing, comprising at least one endless displacing member for advancing product carriers, which displacing member is advanced in a frame
10 by means of a drive, characterized in that the endless displacing member is driven at least at two placed-apart positions and tensioning means for the displacing member are placed between the drives.

2. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
15 characterized in that the tensioning means are provided with detecting means for monitoring the functioning of the tensioning means, and the detecting means are connected to an adjacent drive along the displacing member for controlling the drive subject to the functioning of the tensioning means.

20 3. The transport device as claimed in claim 2, characterized in that the tensioning means are connected to the subsequent drive in the direction of transport of the displacing member.

4. The transport device as claimed in claim 2,
25 characterized in that the transport device is provided with a central control of the drives, to which central control are connected the detecting means of the tensioning means.

5. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
30 characterized in that the tensioning means comprise a guide displaceable under bias for the displacing member, and the position of the displaceable guide is detected by means of a sensor.

- 5 6. The transport device as claimed in claim 5,
characterized in that the sensor is an optical sensor.
7. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the displacing member is a chain.
- 10 8. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the transport device comprises at least
two parallel running displacing members, wherein the product
carriers are supported by a plurality of displacing members.
- 15 9. The transport device as claimed in claim 1, characterized
in that product carriers comprised of elongate baskets are
formed at least partly from a mesh material.
10. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
20 characterized in that the displacing member is displaceable
in the frame rotatable guide means.
11. The transport device as claimed in claim 1,
characterized in that the displacing member is moved in the
25 frame such that the displacing member contains a plurality of
parts running substantially parallel to each other, wherein
adjacent parts move in opposite directions.
12. Transport device as claimed in claim 1, characterized in
30 that the drive is a motor drive.
13. A transport device as claimed in claim 1, characterized
in that the transport device is provided with warning means
which is coupled to detecting means which is activated when a
35 determined control limit of the tensioning means is exceeded.

5 14. A method for compensating length changes in a transport
device having a tensioning means, a detecting means, a
control drive, and a displacing member forming part of the
transport device for elongate meat products, comprising the
operating steps of:

10 a) monitoring the functioning of the tensioning means by
means of the detecting means, and
b) controlling a derive, subject to the monitored
functioning of the tensioning means, such that
functioning of the tensioning means falls within a
15 determined control range.

15. The method as claimed in claim 14, characterized in that
when the tensioning means exceeds a control limit, the
detecting means generate a signal, on the basis of which the
20 length of the displacing member is adjusted.